

Rwanda FELTP

Background and Goals

At the request of the Government of Rwanda, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has implemented a Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (FELTP) in Rwanda in January 2010.

The program in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory practice trains public health leaders while providing services to health authorities in Rwanda. Upon completion of the FELTP, residents are placed in leadership positions at various levels of both the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Animals.

Program Structure

The 2-year program places emphasis on service as residents pursue a Master of Public Health awarded through the National University of Rwanda School of Public Health. The FELTP offers two tracks: one in Applied Epidemiology and one in Public Health Laboratory Practice. Residents spend 25% of their time in classroom instruction and 75% in field assignments.

CDC is supporting the program by assigning an experienced resident advisor to provide technical assistance in developing training materials, teaching and mentoring program residents, and giving consultation on priority public health issues in Rwanda.

Program Objectives

The primary objective of the FELTP is to train public health leaders in applied epidemiology and public health laboratory practice, with an emphasis on problem-solving to provide public health service to the national and sub-national health authorities in Rwanda. The program also aims to strengthen the culture of critical thinking in the public health community.

While in the FELTP, residents are expected to improve public health in Rwanda by conducting outbreak investigations and control, evaluating surveillance systems, conducting economic evaluations of public health programs, and



analyzing surveillance data. Residents also provide recommendations to improve public health, train other health workers, and disseminate their findings through various presentations and publications.

Funding and Partnerships

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rwanda office; Global AIDS Program
- Rwanda Ministry of Health
- Rwanda Ministry of Agriculture and Animals
- Rwanda Animal Research Development Authority
- Treatment and Research AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other Infectious Diseases Center (TRAC Plus)
- National Reference Laboratory
- National University of Rwanda School of Public Health
- African Field Epidemiology Network



Program Accomplishments

Since its inception the program has conducted the following activities:

- Conducted two *Outbreak Investigation and Response* short courses for 70 epidemiology and laboratory participants from the national and district level. Examples of projects that resulted from the course include
 - Evaluation of a cholera epidemic in Burera District (February and March 2009),
 - Assessment of risk factors for primary drug resistance among tuberculosis patients (2008),
 - Evaluation of epidemiologic surveillance of and response to a malaria outbreak at Gakoma HC (November 2008), and
 - Prevalence of HIV among pregnant women attending antenatal-clinic at Kanombe Military Hospital (2006–2008).
- Provided technical support to the government to develop a preparedness plan for H1N1,
- Helped develop documents regarding case finding, contact tracing and monitoring, isolation, as well as quarantine and social distancing,
- Provided technical assistance to develop an epidemic preparedness plan for cholera and participated in the development of the strategic plan for the Epidemic Infectious Disease Unit of TRAC Plus,
- Assisted with the investigation of a botulism outbreak in Nyagatare by providing technical expertise to all aspects of the investigation, and
- Supported surveillance activities at all levels within the public health system.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Center for Global Health

Division of Public Health Systems and Workforce Development
1600 Clifton Road, N.E., Mailstop E-93 • Atlanta, Georgia 30333, USA
www.cdc.gov/globalhealth/fetp • Tel: 404-639-3210 • Fax: 404-639-4617